

**Senate Study Bill 1030 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
EVANS)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring students to pass the United States citizenship  
2 and immigration services naturalization civics test as  
3 a condition of high school graduation and high school  
4 equivalency diplomas.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 259A.1, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **259A.1 Assessment of competency.**

4 The department of education shall cause to be made available  
5 for qualified individuals a high school equivalency diploma. The  
6 diploma shall be issued ~~on the basis of demonstrated~~ to qualified  
7 individuals who successfully pass the civics examination as set  
8 forth in section 280.9A, and demonstrate competence in all of  
9 the following core areas: reading, language arts, literacy,  
10 mathematics, science, and social studies.

11 Sec. 2. Section 280.9A, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
12 following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. a. Commencing with the school year  
14 beginning July 1, 2026, the board of directors of each local  
15 public school district and the authorities in charge of each  
16 nonpublic school shall require that all students in grades nine  
17 through twelve attain, as a condition of graduation, a passing  
18 score on an assessment that consists of the multiple choice  
19 questions contained in the most recent version of the civics  
20 test developed by the United States citizenship and immigration  
21 services.

22 b. A student must answer at least sixty percent of the  
23 questions on the assessment described in paragraph "a" correctly  
24 to attain a passing score. A student who fails to answer at  
25 least sixty percent of the questions on such assessment correctly  
26 may retake the assessment as many times as is necessary.

27 c. The board of directors of a local public school district  
28 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school  
29 shall not impose or collect any fee in connection with the  
30 administration of the assessment described in paragraph "a".

31 d. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to  
32 chapter 17A to administer this subsection.

33 **EXPLANATION**

34 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
35 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

1 This bill requires students to pass the United States  
2 citizenship and immigration services naturalization civics test  
3 as a condition of high school graduation and high school  
4 equivalency diplomas.

5 The bill provides that the board of directors of each local  
6 public school district and the authorities in charge of each  
7 nonpublic school are to require, commencing with the school year  
8 beginning July 1, 2026, all students in grades 9 through 12  
9 to attain, as a condition of graduation, a passing score on  
10 an assessment that consists of the multiple choice questions  
11 contained in the most recent version of the civics test developed  
12 by the United States citizenship and immigration services. A  
13 student must answer at least 60 percent of the questions on  
14 the assessment correctly to attain a passing score. A student  
15 who fails to answer at least 60 percent of the questions on  
16 the assessment correctly may retake the assessment as many  
17 times as is necessary. The bill prohibits school districts and  
18 accredited nonpublic schools from imposing or collecting any fee  
19 in connection with the administration of the assessment. The  
20 bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules to  
21 administer these provisions. The bill provides that individuals  
22 seeking a high school equivalency diploma must also pass such an  
23 examination.